

Senate Bill 235

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th and Reed of the 35th

**AS PASSED**

**AN ACT**

To amend an Act to create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia, to be known as the Douglas Judicial Circuit, to be composed of the County of Douglas, approved March 20, 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 563), as amended, so as to provide for the employment by the district attorney with the approval of the board of commissioners of certain personnel; to provide that investigators employed by the district attorney shall have the powers of peace officers and shall be qualified as peace officers; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability and automatic termination of such provision; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

An Act to create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia, to be known as the Douglas Judicial Circuit, to be composed of the County of Douglas, approved March 20, 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 563), as amended, is amended by designating the present matter contained in Section 3 as subsection (a) and adding a new subsection (b) to Section 3 to read as follows:

"(b)(1) The district attorney may employ such additional assistant district attorneys, deputy district attorneys, or other attorneys, investigators, paraprofessionals, clerical assistants, victim and witness assistance personnel, and other employees or independent contractors as may be authorized by the board of commissioners. Such personnel shall be compensated by the county in a manner and amount fixed by the district attorney with the approval of the board of commissioners.

(2) Any investigator appointed pursuant to this subsection or Code Section 15-18-14.1 of the O.C.G.A. shall meet the qualifications for certification as a peace officer as provided in Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act.' Such investigators shall exercise all powers of a peace officer including the power to make arrests and to apply for, execute, and return any warrant, rule, order, or process within Douglas County.

(3) This subsection shall apply from the effective date of this subsection until December 31, 2011, after which time this subsection shall be of no further force or effect."

**SECTION 2.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.